

Appl. No.: 10/021,289  
Amdt. Dated: 07/01/2005  
Off. Act. Dated: 06/01/2005

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. **Allowance of Claim 36.**

The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claim 36.

2. **Objection to Claims 37-47.**

The Applicant notes the Examiner's objection to the form of Claims 37-47 and has amended the preamble of each said dependent claim to recite "The method" instead of "A method".

3. **Rejection of Claims 44 and 46-47 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.**

The Applicant notes the rejection of Claims 44 and 46-47 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and has amended the claims to overcome the rejection. Claim 44 has been amended to recite "a destination hop" instead of "the destination hop". Claim 46 has been amended to replace the phrase "and attempt the process at" to "until". As a result, the rejection has been overcome as to Claims 44 and 46, as well as Claim 47 which inherited the rejection from Claim 46.

4. **Rejection of Claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).**

To expedite prosecution, the Applicant has canceled Claims 1-35. Therefore, the rejection is now moot.

5. **Amendments Made Without Prejudice or Estoppel.**

Notwithstanding the amendments made herein and accompanying remarks provided above, the Applicant does not acquiesce in the grounds for rejection with respect to the original form of these claims. These amendments have been made without any prejudice, waiver, or estoppel, and without forfeiture or dedication to the public, with respect to the original subject matter of the claims as originally filed or in their form immediately preceding these amendments. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original scope of these claims in the future, such as through continuation practice for example.

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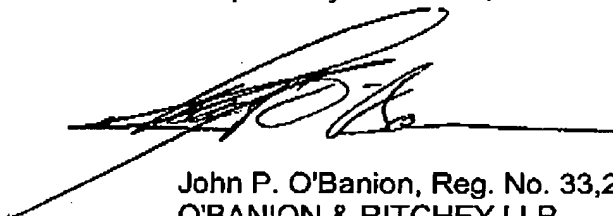
6. Conclusion.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued for Claims 36-47 and that the case pass to issuance.

In the event any further matters remain at issue with respect to the present application, please contact the undersigned below at the telephone number indicated in order to discuss such matter prior to the next action on the merits.

Date: 7/1/05

Respectfully submitted,



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